stakes in Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) to become a vertically integrated company.

Losses suffered by oil companies in post APM era

1447. SHRIMATIAMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum, Bharat Petroleum and IBP have together lost about Rs. 1600 crore in the first 45 days of dismantling of administered princing mechanism from April 1, on account of selling products below the cost of crude;

(b) if so, whether he has stated that the 10th Five Year Plan should take into account the previous achievements and reflect ground realities;

(c) whether he has also sought changes in the draft plan document relating to the Ministry including privatisation of oil companies; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to check the loss suffered by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) With a view to facilitate a smooth transition from the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) era to a free market scenario, the public sector oil companies did not increase the price of petrol and diesel in the months of April and May, 2002. An appropriate financial mechanism will be devised to consider their effects on oil marketing companies. They have increased the prices of petrol and diesel in June 2002 taking into account the prevalent international oil prices.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has suggested that various programmes relating to improving oil security in the country may be duly highlighted in the Tenth Five Year Plan document. Relevant details on developments in the petroleum sector during the Ninth Plan and thrust areas for the Tenth Plan will be appropriately incorporated.

Availability of CNG

1448. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: